While in 2002-03 the production of rabi foodgrains was 86.38 million tonnes, in 2003-04 (fourth advance estimates), the rabi foodgrains production was 100.01 million tonnes. For the year 2004-05, sowing activities are in full swing. Assuming normal weather and related factors, as also favourable impact of the reward scheme referred to above on rabi performance, it is reasonable to expect that the rabi foodgrains production may exceed the record level of 104.29 million tonnes reached in 1999-2000.

Development of healthier variant of mustard oil

204. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint team of Scientists of Delhi University and National Dairy Development Board have developed a healthier variant of mustard oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new variant has been subjected to laboratory test and found fit for consumption; and

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be cleared for field trials and made available for sale in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Mustard lines with low erucic acid and high oleic fraction and desired levels of linolenic and linoleic acid in oil, developed at Delhi University, are at various stages of field/lab trials. The lines will require further trials as per the guidelines of the various Government authorities.

New pricing scheme for phosphate and potassic fertilizers

205. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have evolved a new pricing scheme for phosphate and potassic fertilizers;

(b) how the new scheme is expected to help the indigenous manufacturers;